

Volunteer report by Sinem Guler
European solidarity corps volunteer at Kindergruppe Simalabim Zwerge
from October 2024 to September 2025

Hallo,
I'm Sinem Güler from Turkey, and I spent twelve wonderful months volunteering at Kindergruppe Simalabim Zwerge in Vienna as part of the European Solidarity Corps. From the very beginning, I was welcomed warmly by both the children and my colleagues, which made it easy to feel at home in a new country.

During my time at kindergarten, I worked with children aged between two and six years old. My days were filled with helping the educators during meals, dressing, and daily routines, and organizing creative and educational activities like art, storytelling, singing, and games. I loved seeing how curious and imaginative the children were—it was such a joy to watch them explore, learn, and express themselves freely.



This experience taught me more than I ever expected. I became more patient and understanding, learned how to adapt to different situations, and improved my communication skills—especially in German. Working as part of a team in a multicultural environment helped me grow both personally and professionally.

Living in Austria was an incredible part of this journey. Vienna is a city full of culture, history, and beauty. I enjoyed visiting museums, walking through its charming streets, and of course, tasting traditional



Austrian dishes like Wiener Schnitzel, Kaiserschmarrn, and the delicious Sachertorte. Each day brought something new and exciting.



Before my volunteering experience, I wasn't sure how easily I could adjust to a new environment and language, but now I feel much more confident, independent, and open-minded.

My advice for future volunteers would be to stay curious, embrace every challenge, and enjoy the process. Every day brings a new lesson, and the connections you make will stay with you forever.

The best part of my European Solidarity Corps experience was feeling part of community sharing moments, laughter, and learning with both the children and my colleagues.



For me, volunteering means giving from the heart, learning through real experiences, and growing as a person while contributing to others' happiness.

I truly recommend the ESC program to anyone who wants to discover new cultures, meet amazing people, and experience something that can change their perspective on life.

